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**HENDERSONVILLE NORTH CAROLINA 28793***"In the Land of the Sky"*

FAX: (828)- 693 -0228,

DATE: January 23, 2002

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Attorney GeneralFAX: 1-202-307-1454

ATTN: \_\_\_\_\_

1-202-616-9937

RECIPIENTS EXTENSION: \_\_\_\_\_

NO OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE: 2FROM: Earl L PhillipsSPECIAL NOTES: Attached is a letter regarding the Microsoft Settlement.

PLEASE NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION



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*"In the land of the city"*

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

January 23, 2002

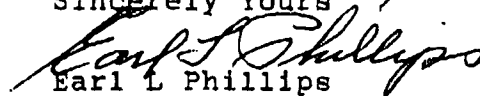
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Let me begin by saying that providing a platform for the average consumer to express opinion is a wonderful way to judge whether a settlement provides consumer protection. As an American taxpayer and Microsoft supporter, I feel that this case has gone on too long. I do not agree with every decision that Microsoft has ever made, but do feel that Microsoft earned its way to the top by producing quality products at reasonable prices. My feelings might have been different if Microsoft had acted maliciously, but I do think it is wrong to punish a corporation for building the mousetrap that almost everyone wants.

Microsoft has agreed to grant broad new rights, which will, in everyday language, open its inventions to be used as launch pads for the competitors' products. For instance, Microsoft has agreed to grant broad new rights to software engineers and computer makers to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs that compete with programs included within Windows. Also, Microsoft will disclose for use by its competitors any protocols implemented within Windows products that are used to interoperate with any Microsoft server.

I cannot see what will be gained by further litigation, especially at the federal level. I fear that if this debacle persists, we may run the risk of slowing innovation to the point that advanced American technology may lose its competitive advantage in the world market. We must protect this valuable industry that creates jobs, exports, and economic revenue. In my opinion, the sooner we put this matter behind us, the better.

Sincerely Yours

  
Earl L. Phillips  
Broker-Realtor